

## **1<sup>st</sup> Look Program Specifics**

Medicaid Patient 1st providers will be able to bill for an initial oral assessment and the application of fluoride varnish for high caries risk children. The provider and staff will be required to have been trained and certified through an approved educational program.

The assessment will be billed once under D0145 (oral exam<3 years old, counseling), and the varnishing will be billed under D1206 (topical fluoride application). Reimbursement will not exceed the fees paid to dentists, and will be funded through the medical, and not dental, budget.

If a child has seen a dentist, the child does not qualify for the 1<sup>st</sup> Look program and the medical provider should not render services for the oral exam and fluoride application. Medical providers are encouraged to verify that a child has not been seen by a dental provider prior to performing 1<sup>st</sup> Look services. If a patient has been previously seen by a dentist and services are provided, the medical provider will not be reimbursed for the D0145 or the D1206 codes. Those children determined to be at high risk will be eligible to receive the varnish applications.

The AAPD Caries Risk Assessment Tool (CAT) criteria will be utilized, but will be modified to require at least two high risk indicators. Currently the criteria allow any child who is eligible for Medicaid to be considered high risk. The 1<sup>st</sup> Look program will require at least one additional high risk indicator.

Varnish procedures will be limited to 3 per calendar year, regardless of the provider, not to exceed a maximum of 6 applications between 6 months and 36 months of age. The allowed frequency will be no less than 90 days.

D0145 may be billed once by a medical provider and once by a dental provider for children age 6 months to 36 months. Medical records must document the content of the anticipatory guidance counseling given to parents/caregivers, the results of the CAT, and documentation that a referral has been made to the Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Care Coordinators for all high risk children.

Once a child has a dental home, this information will be kept on file with the medical provider, and no further fluoride varnish applications by the medical provider will be permitted.

The approved training course will include the AAP module “The Oral Health Risk Assessment Training Program for Pediatricians and Other Child health Professionals”, as well as program specific information from Alabama Medicaid. A pre-test will be administered, and successful completion of a post-test will be required. Trainers will be pediatric dentists or general dentists with significant expertise in pediatric dentistry, who have completed a trainer course and are listed as an approved instructor by Alabama Medicaid. Provisions for other trainers or venues (i.e. on-line course) will be considered after the 1<sup>st</sup> Look program has been in place for two years.

*Dental providers are encouraged to follow the recommendations of the ADA, AGD, and the AAPD with regard to all children receiving their first dental visit by six months after the eruption of the first tooth or NLT 12 months of age, and be willing to accept referrals from medical providers or assist in appropriate referral to a specialist when indicated.*